

Name _____ Date _____

A Gold Rush Story

My family and I left Independence, Missouri, in January of 1851. We headed west with forty other people to look for gold in California. We traveled for 2,000 miles in a covered wagon!	10 23 33
We arrived in Bear Creek, California, in August of that year. Ma says that Bear Creek is called a boom town because it grew so quickly. I think that's a funny name!	44 58 65
Now we are living in a cabin in Bear Creek. There is no school in this town! Ma teaches my sister Mary and me. We have lessons every day. I hope that I can go to a REAL school soon.	79 92 105
Sometimes I help Pa look for gold. Some miners dig deep into the earth. Pa uses a gold pan instead. The pan is about eighteen inches across and it's made of iron. The sides slope. I think it looks like a big pie pan!	117 130 144 149
The gold pan is simple and easy to use. First Pa puts some dirt in the pan. Then I fill it with water from a stream. The water breaks up bits of clay and dirt.	162 177 184
Pa shakes the pan gently from side to side. If there is any gold, it falls to the bottom. Then Pa moves the pan in a circle. When he does that, the lighter sand washes over the side of the pan.	198 213 225
Today we were really lucky. We looked down in the pan and found a nugget of gold! Boy, was Ma happy when we showed it to her! To be honest, on MOST days, we aren't that lucky.	237 251 262